REMARKS

Claims 17-32 are pending in the present application. Claim 17 was amended in this response. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendment, and additional support for the amendments may be found in the amended specification on page 5, lines 13-15; page 6, lines 1-6 and line 20 – page 7, line10.

Claims 17-19, 20, 21-22, and 26-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Kuzma* (US Patent 5,951,637).

Claims 24-25 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kuzma* (US Patent 5,951,637), in view of *Patrick* (EP 0684741).

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kuzma* (US Patent 5,951,637), in view of *Ali et al.* (US Patent 6,233,323).

Claims 28-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kuzma* (US Patent 5,951,637), in view of *Joong* (US Patent 6,549,776).

Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kuzma* (US Patent 5,951,637), in view of *Christe IV et al.* (US Patent 6,549,621). Applicants traverse these rejections. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Specifically, the cited art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest the features of "providing the narrowband data link to the subscriber terminal as a permanently available data link, wherein the narrowband data link is not switched through by the telephone exchange, and wherein a user channel connection between the subscriber terminal and the data network is not switched via the public telephone network" as recited in claim 17.

Regarding *Kuzma*, the reference teaches a system and method for establishing a data conference between a node and an end point of a communication network, which includes the steps of requesting a reserved bandwidth for a data conference having a specified start time from the end point, and receiving confirmation of the reserved bandwidth from the end point, wherein, during a predetermined time window around the start time, the end point terminates or rejects other uses of the reserved bandwidth to ensure that the reserved bandwidth is available for the data conference. (col. 2, lines 15-23). *Kuzma* teaches the use of node requests in a telecommunication network using ISDN connections between two end points or users, where the connection includes both a low-bandwidth data channel (D channel) and one or more relatively
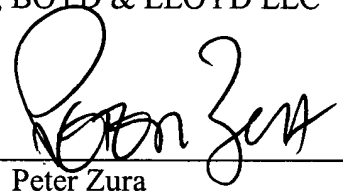
high-bandwidth so-called "bearer" channels (B channels). The D channel is used to switch on and control the use of B channels. To establish an ISDN connection, the D channel is used to access switch controlling to establish at least one B channel (col. 1, lines 51-67). Accordingly, under the teaching of *Kuzma*, the narrowband data link must be switched through by the telephone exchange, and the user channel connections between the subscriber terminal and the data network must be switched via the public telephone network.

Similarly, in *Patrick*, the document also teaches that the narrowband data link must be switched through by the telephone exchange, and the user channel connections between the subscriber terminal and the data network must be switched via the public telephone network (col. 1, line 54 – col. 2, line 6). The same is also true for *Ali* (col. 6, lines 28-38), *Joong* (col. 3, lines 47-56) and *Christe* (col. 4, lines 6-20). For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 are improper and should be withdrawn.

As such, Applicants submit that claims 17-32 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the office is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No.: 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket Number (0112740-519) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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    Dated: August 8, 2005